



WOMEN'S CORPS IN PEACE TIME

By Edith N. Rogers
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When the war is over the armed services should continue to have women serving in their ranks. I was convinced that the army and navy would need women to replace men in certain duties after the last world war. But it was 25 years before I was able to get through congress a measure which created the Women's Army Auxiliary corps. Since then the navy, coast guard and marine corps have created units for women. I believe the whole country has approved.

Now is the time to make provision to keep women in these services on a permanent full-time basis. Immediately! Because war is like a flood or a hurricane. As soon as it is over people lose interest in preparing against a recurrence. Because in the inevitable cutting down of the armed services to peacetime size one of the first units to face the ax, if only because it is the newest, could be the women's corps. Because some, weary of the strain of war, will want the illusion that all can be as it was before the war began. They will try to force all women out of the factories, the professions, the armed services, try to relegate them back to housework. We must plan to fit a certain number of women into our postwar economic life.

The woman in uniform has served as well in this war and the services have had opportunity to learn how valuable she can be. Lieut. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, anxious to determine what his officers thought of the work done by WACs, sent out inquiries to the men of his command. The replies were highly laudatory.

Volunteers for Africa.

Certainly there can be no question of the women's spirit. Recently, for example, Director Oveta Culp Hobby went before two companies of WACs in Daytona, Fla. There was need of a contingent of WACs in North Africa. After pointing out the dangers of the journey and the perils of the war theater, Mrs. Hobby called for volunteers. She hoped to get enough to make a respectable showing. She got 300—every woman in the two companies. This display of spirit, I think, explains why officers of the regular services—who were skeptical about women in the ranks, are now enthusiastic. Will

the armed forces need women after the war? Of course! The army and navy will need them as a nucleus for the force they will require if we again become involved in war. During the truce between the world wars I urged congress to appropriate money so the army could place educational orders with manufacturers. The purpose was to create in industry a skeleton force trained for war work. I think of the women's corps of the army and navy in the same way.

The English maintained a small force of women in their armed services during the years after the last war. When a large force was needed, they had the foundation upon which to build. In this country, it was a year before we could get the women's service into action. During that time thousands of soldiers were mobilized in noncombatant jobs which could have been handled as well by women. We cannot again afford such a loss of time.

The armed services have learned that there are many jobs which men are glad to get away from and which women perform with enthusiasm. For example, men don't like to be telephone operators. Women in uniform have gladly undertaken this job, and should continue in it as well as in similar jobs as interpreters, clerks and weather bureau workers.

In years to come there will be new emphasis on certain activities in the armed services which have only recently become important. We shall always want to have a regular airplane warning network as part of our defense system. This will require a trained personnel which should be under army supervision. There will be little point in training a large staff of able-bodied men for this kind of work. Let the women handle it.

Nurses Set Precedent.

There is precedent. The army long ago established it by including women in permanent status by the creation of the nurse corps. Recently the army also made provision for women dietitians and physiotherapists.

It is impossible to estimate today how many women the services will need in peacetime. Certainly the army and navy should admit as many as they can use. It will not be hard to find them—women feel there can be no greater privilege than to serve under our flag.

Romans Used Convoys to Clear Pirates From Sea

Convoing ships goes back to early Roman times, says the National Geographic society. Pirates were the enemies that first made convoy necessary.

Rome's early pirate destroyers copied the light swift galleys of the Liburnians, a maritime people who lived on Adriatic shores. The Romans increased the speed of sail with rows of oars. After Pompey cleared the Mediterranean of pirates, communications still had to be guarded to frontiers beyond.

Piracy later became more menacing, often encouraged by nations to block trade rivals. Protection from pirates was one of the reasons for the Hanseatic league of German port cities. As soon as merchant vessels became virtually warships, they could protect themselves when sailing together in a fleet. At first voluntary, such co-operation was later regulated by law.

England built 34 men-of-war to oppose Spain's "Invincible Armada," but most of the British fleet in the engagement of 1588 was made up of merchant vessels manned by their regular crews. Merchant seamen constituted a naval reserve, and when captured were treated as prisoners of war.

Washington Digest

Peace Planners Emphasize Need for Orderly 'D' Day

Planning Board Report Envisions Reintegration of Men Into Services Where Skill, Ability Are Recognized.



By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

Next week's release of "Washington Digest" will be written from Quebec, where H. R. Baukhage covered the history-making Roosevelt-Churchill conference for Western Newspaper Union and its affiliated newspapers.

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As the plans which received their final approval at the Quebec conference start turning from ink and paper to moving men and machines, the thoughts of other planners turn toward another zero hour—"D" day.

The war is not over by any means but hard-headed people who realize that you can't wait until it rains to prepare for a rainy day know that you can't wait until the sun comes out to buy your summer clothes.

"D" day is as important as "M" day. Demobilization is as big a problem as mobilization. Various plans have been worked on, none has been perfected. The President has offered one. The Republican party will offer another. Industry will present its program. The administration, whoever is at the helm when peace comes, will have a heavy responsibility. The National Resources Planning board has already made a report expressing its opinions on a plan drawn up by a special committee on post-war readjustment which, at least, gives us a point of departure.

Plan Needed Now

The board points out that victims of the war are already coming back and the time is ripe. Only the other day, I went through Walter Reed hospital here and saw some of those victims. Saw photographs of the conditions in which they come back and others showing what medical skill has done for them. I also saw the workshops where wounded men are being rehabilitated, fitted to take up work which, in spite of their handicaps, they could learn to do.

This plan emphasizes the need for an orderly demobilization. It is important to get every man who can be spared from the armed forces, the moment he can be spared without threatening the nation's security, back into civilian life. I know how glad I was when I got out of uniform into civvies after the last war.

But the report emphasizes that still more important than speed is order in demobilization. "We not only want the men out of the armed services; we want to get them into peace services where skills and abilities can be fully recognized, utilized and rewarded." That is the thesis of the planning board.

Responsibility for the placement of veterans in industry is acknowledged by the re-employment division of the selective service system under the selective service act. The selective service system is not perfect but considering the job it had to do, it has worked out in a manner that is a triumph of the democratic method. Draft boards are groups of "neighbors" who pass upon each registrant, and on that basis, select or reject him. The same system will put the soldier back into his old job—if his old job is there, and if he can fill it. But many had no jobs. Others for one reason or another will be unable to fill the ones they had before the war. These cases must be taken care of.

Board's Principles

Business has been shuffled and shifted about just as the men themselves have. It may be difficult to get man and job together. The problem is intricate but the committee has tried to lay down certain principles. Here they are:

1. Three months' furlough at the end of the war at regular base pay not to exceed \$100 a month, plus family allowances.

2. Beyond that time, if necessary, unemployment insurance for 26 weeks for those who register with the government employment service.

3. Special aid and counsel regarding readjustment and compensation.

4. Special provision, including tuition and allowance, for the continuation of education interrupted by the war or to follow a special course of training.

5. Veterans credit for old age and survivors' insurance on the basis of service in the armed forces.

6. Opportunities for agricultural employment and settlement for a limited number of well qualified men.

Re-Training Program

Similar provisions must be made for war workers as war industries close or change over. Meanwhile, the government will maintain centers where assistance and retraining for civilian jobs can be arranged. In order to prevent a too rapid attempt at change-over of industry, a moderate policy of continuation of war contracts some of which can be continued in the national good.

Already industry is offering plans of its own but it cannot be expected to do the whole job. One suggestion is that government loans be made to industries turning to peace-time production in proportion to the number of men such industries employ.

Business cannot take over the burden alone. In 1939, we were at peace although we were making a lot of war supplies for the Allies. Then 4.1 million workers were employed in munitions making. Eight and six-tenths millions were working on farms or agricultural pursuits. At the end of last year, the workers in war plants had more than doubled. They were 10.5 millions. In agriculture, unemployment has not greatly changed, comparatively speaking; farm workers amount to 8.9 millions. But the men in the armed forces more than doubled. In the same period the unemployed had decreased from 8.7 millions to 1 million. (Some of these we shall always have with us—the lame, the halt and, of course, the lazy.) But it is estimated there were 900,000 persons jobless and deserving work in July of this year.

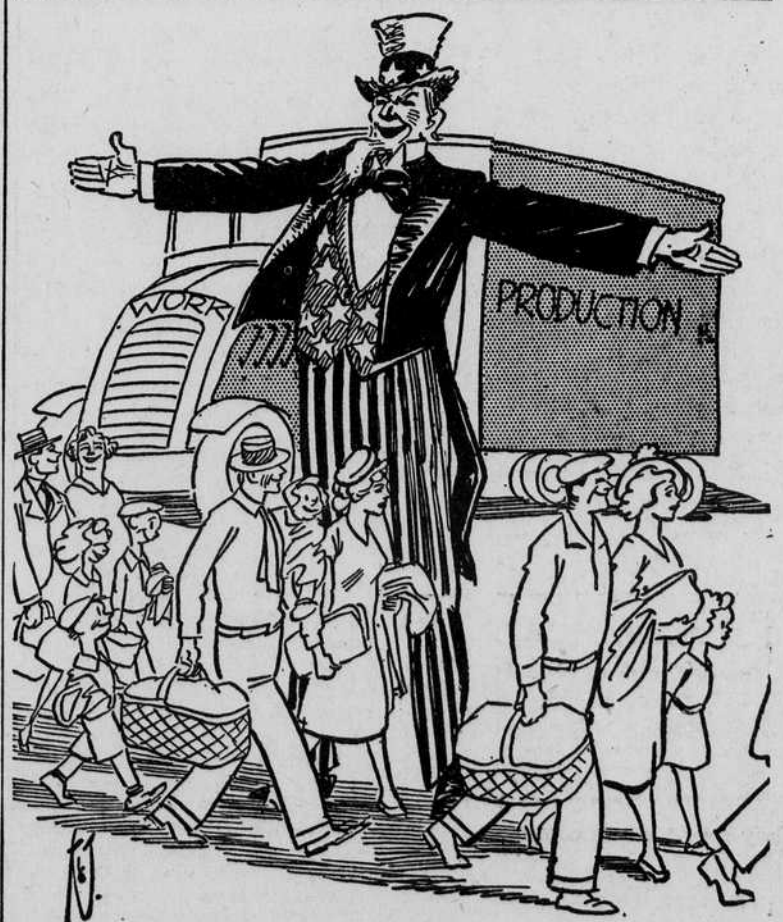
There may be points to the committee's plan to which objections will be raised. It is not offered as a working drawing, merely as a basis of discussion, but how much better such a procedure is than the policy after the last war when the soldier was a football and where each congress tried to vote more dollars out of the treasury without rhyme or reason; money which didn't provide jobs, which in many cases, pitifully failed of its purpose, and in others simply filled the coffers of the bootlegger and the shark and left the recipient nothing.

Diary of a Broadcaster

Over the land, the Victory gardens are bringing in their rich yields to many a person who probably never worked as hard—physically—for his supper before. And probably never had more fresh, sweet and luscious vegetables.

But I wandered over a farm recently that was crying for rain. I couldn't help thinking, as I pushed through a wood lot beside a shrunk stream, stained brown from the yellow leaves that carpeted it, how all the living things were anguishing with thirst. Twigs snapped under one's feet like dry bones, there was an ugly growl instead of a happy hum from the insects—it seemed that only the tough blue-bottles could survive. Not far from the stream where the earth in the bed of a spring was still damp, one cricket was singing gratefully but there were few of his fellows about. Leaves on tall weeds hung to the stem like a flag at half-staff on a day when no breeze stirs, one yellow-headed flower stood out in a spot of color, it looked like a very sleepy little girl, her damp locks glued to her face almost concealing her tired smile.

Labor Day Parade



The DEBUNKER

By John Harvey Furbay, Ph.D.



Because the brain requires phosphorus to function, and because fish contains this chemical in varying amounts, it was once supposed that fish was a "brain food" and would make a person smarter. Scientists now tell us that fish is no better than many other foods for nourishing the brain, and conclude, "actually there is no one food that has more value for the brain than any other."

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